

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Ms. G. Lovett, Principal
Mr. Wong, Mrs. J. Hughes, Ms. Jilderda, Mrs. Toic
Vice-Principals

FEBRUARY, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 9	Photo Day
Feb 10-12	Grad Retakes
Feb 15	Family Day
Feb 25	Math Contest
Feb 26	Semi-Formal
Mar 9	Progress Reports
Mar 15-19	MARCH BREAK
Mar 24	Parent-Teacher Interviews
April 2	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Monday
April 8	OSSLT Literacy
April 22	Mid Term Reports
May 4-5	Ring Day
May 24	Victoria Day
May 28	Prom
June 8-9	EQAO
June 8	Athletic Banquet

UPCOMING TRIPS 2010

Italy Trip—March 13—21

Boys Rugby Tour— New Brunswick—April 22—26

MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

As we approach the final months of the rebuild there will be many details that require attention in order to have the school ready for students in September. For that reason, I will be splitting my time this semester between working on those details and continuing with long term staffing, scheduling and planning for BCI. In the meantime, Ms. Jilderda will be filling in as Acting Principal to manage the day to day operations of the school for the second semester. Ms. Jilderda is a recently retired principal and has been helping us during the first semester as an acting Vice Principal. Mrs. Toic will be filling in as part time VP in addition to her part time teaching duties. The following chart may help direct any questions or concerns you may have.

ISSUE	CONTACT PERSON	TELEPHONE EXTENSION
Attendance/Behaviour—Gr. 9	Mrs. Toic	271023
Attendance/Behaviour—A-L	Mrs. Hughes	271003
Attendance/Behaviour—M-Z	Mr. Wong	271002
Inquiries/concerns for the Feb.—June time frame	Ms. Jilderda	271001
Inquiries/concerns for 2010/2011 school year	Ms. Lovett	0 to be re-directed

I continually get the question of whether the build is on schedule. The time frame remains the same. We expect to begin to move back into the 1910 and new building during the summer. Renovations and upgrades to the 1963 wing will begin in July and we expect them to take until the end of the first semester. Classes will take place in the new building as well as Victoria but we will return to a regular school day. Everyone-staff and students have been terrific through this entire ordeal. We look forward to getting back together as one, united BCI.

MUSIC

On Saturday, January 30th history was made for Canada (and BCI) as our first ever Canadian Young Men's Chorus took the stage at the International Midwinter Convention in Tampa, Florida. The Cross Canada Chorus included 53 young men from all across Canada. The project was entirely funded by individuals, barbershop chapters, Sing Canada Foundation and the International Barbershop Society.

Two students from BCI (Alex Wilson and Aaron Haydon along with Mr. Oakes) represented Canada in this chorus. Also to share the stage were the international champions from the Adult Men, Senior Men and Collegiate Level choruses and quartets.

The Cross Canada Chorus received a superior rating (Gold) along with five other gold ranked choruses. There were eleven choruses in total. The competition was outstanding and to receive a gold rating is not an easy feat at an international level. The group was performing along with some of the best in the world. Congratulations to these outstanding BCI students. Sound clips and more info can be found at <http://CrossCanadaChorus.ca>

Next year the group will travel to Las Vegas to compete again. BCI will be starting a male chorus this semester and opening it up to other schools in the board. A young quartet called Rendezvous (can be found on YouTube) will be performing and doing a workshop with all interested guys. This group will be welcome to join the Ontario contingent of the Cross Canada Chorus and perform and complete with them.



New Staff at BCI

Congratulations to Mrs. A. Wibberley on her retirement from BCI as of January 30, 2010. We wish her all the best in her retirement. We welcome Mrs. M. Alfano back to BCI as our new department head of Student Services.

We also welcome back Mrs. J. Grierson-Young and Mrs. K. McGregor, returning from maternity leave.

Welcome to new staff members: Ms. A. Austin, Mr. M. Gibbons, Ms. T. Robertson and Mr. B. Van Haeche.

We say good-bye to Mr. R. Brown, Mr. R. Caterini, Ms. K. Johnson, Ms. K. Lewis, Ms. C. Vermeulen and also to Mrs. S. Martin and Mrs. A. Tugman who are on maternity leave.

SPORTS AT B.C.I.

New Teams starting soon:

Midget/Junior Boys Rugby and Junior and Senior Girls Rugby start March 1st—fitness training ideas will be posted outside the girls physical education area—welcome to all athletes who are interested in beginning training for their up-coming season!

Midget/Junior Boys Coach - Mr. Cohoon; Senior Boys Coach—Mr. Boos;
Junior Girls Coach—Ms. Link; Senior Girls Coach—Mr. Martin, Ms. Grierson-Young

Badminton is in full swing with competitions beginning on Wednesdays soon!

Boys' and Girls' Hockey teams are doing well with playoff spots in sight!

Girls' Volleyball and Boys' Basketball also shooting for playoff positions in the next few weeks! Good luck to all the teams!

Girls' Soccer and Boys' Soccer will be starting March 1st—talk to Mr. Ulysse or Mr. Eyre for details.

Track and Field indoor practices have begun—talk to Mr. Giancola or Ms. Riley for details or check the Track and Field link on the website.

Watch the BCI website and posted announcements outside both sites / main offices for details! Make your spring a memorable one and get involved!

BCI GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) - Acceptance for All—promoting acceptance for all students—straight, gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender or questioning—meets every second and last Thursday—junior meeting at noon, room 508 and senior meeting at 1:00 p.m. in room 607! Talk to Ms. Root, Ms. Link or Ms. Stromme for details.

BCI Soup Kitchen—BCI Athletics Department is hosting a Downtown Healthy Soup Kitchen for community members in need of a hot healthy meal. Details to come but \$1,000 proposal money, as well as community donations, to be used to get all of BCI involved in our "Empathy Eating" Movement! Watch and listen for details in February.

Hoops for Heart 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney—Friday, February 12th ! All students, all abilities welcome! Must pledge money to participate—teams of 3 or 4 (1 girl required) - fun, competitive day to raise money and awareness for the Brantford Heart and Stroke Foundation. See Ms. Link for team entries and pledge forms!



FROM STUDENT COUNCIL

1. BCI's Semi-Formal will be held on Friday, February 26, 2010 from 8:00 p.m. until midnight in our own gym. Tickets will be \$25 per person with proceeds from each ticket going to help the people of Haiti. Tickets will be available to purchase starting February 17th at both BCI and Victoria. The semi-formal is open to all grades.
2. February 12 and 26, will be BCI "Olympic Days" so all staff and students are asked to wear red/white or Olympic clothing to show that we believe.

QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

Thank you for your magazine purchase in support of our fundraiser this past fall. By now, most magazines should be arriving in the mail. If you have questions about your order(s), please DO NOT CALL the BCI office, but call the QSP customer service hotline at 1-800-667-2536, and they will assist you.

You can also order magazines online and support us all year by visiting www.qsp.ca and entering our online account number: 7390.

HAITI FUNDRAISER

Leadership students at Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School recently raised money for the Red Cross to aid victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Fundraising events at school included a candy raffle, a charity game, and collecting cash donations from students and staff.

Pictured here is BCI's Leadership class presenting the cash donations to Canadian Red Cross staff, Robyn Ozog and Judi Mickolich.

Miss Heltner and the Leadership students thank everyone at BCI who helped with this project.



School Emergency Plan

It is the School Board policy to practice building evacuation and lock down procedures when school is in session. During a lock-down procedure, parents are advised please not to phone the school, call 911 or come to the school since this may impede police actions. Contact with home will be made by the school as necessary. Every student will be given specific instructions for the school emergency plan.

New Legislation Bill 157 Comes into Effect

On February the 1st 2010, Bill 157 "Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act " came into effect. This legislation introduces new expectations and requirements to address inappropriate student behaviour, and to support students who have been the victims of serious student behaviour. These requirements include:

- the legislative requirement of all schools board employee groups who work directly with students, to respond to any behaviour which could negatively impact upon the school climate.
- the legislative requirement for all school board employees to report to the principal, any student behaviour which may cause a student to be suspended or expelled
- schools must have a process in place whereby students can report to the principal, incidents of bullying and harassment
- it is now the duty of the principal to inform the parents of any student who has been a victim of serious student behaviour
- schools need to have a plan and or process to support students who have been the victim of serious student behaviour
- schools must have a progressive discipline and bully intervention and prevention plan to promote positive behaviour and to address inappropriate student behaviour

Brantford Collegiate Institute and the Grand Erie District School Board recognizes that keeping our students safe at school is our first and foremost priority. These legislative changes help schools to better address the community problems of bullying and violent behaviour. Immediate response to inappropriate student actions will allow staff to stop and correct undesired behaviours, allowing students to realize that the offending behaviour is unacceptable. Reporting of serious student incidents will allow the principal to be aware of all activities taking place in the school where student discipline needs to be considered. It is hoped that these legislative changes coupled with ongoing dialogue with parents and community members will allow our school to be an even better place to learn.

Sears Drama Festival

B.C.I presents Secrets and Taboos at the Sears District Drama Festival in Port Dover. Come see the cast and crew perform at The Lighthouse Festival Theatre on February 22nd at 7:00pm. The cost is only \$5.00 per person, and it includes our show plus two additional performances that same night. It is reserved seating so call ahead to ensure front row seats.

Celebrate our Youth Music

The Little String Orchestra presents "Celebrate our Youth" with The Brantford Collegiate Institute Symphonic Band, and the Brant Youth Symphony Orchestra. The Concert will take place on Sunday February 14, 3:00pm, at New Covenant Church. \$15 & \$5

B.C.I.'s Musical 99

This year, our talented students bring 99 to the W.Ross MacDonald Stage April 29, 30, May 1 and 2nd. This is a musical revue show, celebrating the best that the genre of musical has had to offer in 99 years, coincidentally the same age as B.C.I!. Tickets will go on sale after March Break. Our cast of 40, and crew of 20 began rehearsals in January for this production.

B.C.I. Arts in the Square

For the 3rd consecutive year the BCI ARTS Department will be showcased in Harmony Square for a Saturday in the Spring. Date t.ba. This event features a **visual arts** exhibit (all grades), both instrumental and vocal **music selections**, as well as **dramatic** and **dance performances**. We are proud and honoured to be the only school in GEDSB to exhibit our artistic talents.

Heritage Music Festival

The BCI band will be traveling to Toronto to compete in the Heritage Music Festival on April 23 and 24. This music festival attracts an abundance of ensembles, exposing students to a full roster of performing groups from across Canada.

B.C.I Spring Music Concert

The BCI Band will host the annual Spring Concert at New Covenant Church on June 10 at 7:00pm. The concert will feature performances by BCI's many musical ensembles including the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Jr Band, Vocal Ensemble, and much more. Come out and support BCI's music program, and enjoy a wonderful evening of music.

Comedy Sketch Performance Night

Students in the Stage and Screen and Laurier Program will keep you rolling with laughter for this one night of comedy sketch entertainment in middle of May. Dates and times t.b.a.